

We claim:

1. A method of displaying a document having a bottomless-page model in accordance with a custom layout on a computer having a display screen, an operating system
5 operating under the control of a textual mark-up engine, a textual mark-up template document, a textual mark-up content document, the method comprising:

parsing in a tag contained in the textual mark-up template document;

determining from the tag the textual mark-up content document and a defined subset of the display screen area; and

10 displaying content from the textual mark-up content document in the defined subset of the display screen area.

2. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a server-controlled method for generating a textual mark-up presentation document for presentation
15 on an output device coupled to the client system, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the client system for the presentation document;

accessing a template document containing a tag that defines a content document and a defined area within the presentation document; and

20 sending the presentation document to the client system output device with the defined area within the presentation document containing content from the defined content document.

3. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a client-controlled method for generating a textual mark-up presentation document for presentation
25 on an output device coupled to the client system the method comprising comprising:

receiving a request from the client system for the presentation document;

sending a template document to the client system;

determining from a tag in the template document a network source for a content document and a defined area within the presentation document;

obtaining the content document from the network source; and

- 5 displaying the presentation document on the output device coupled to the client system with the presentation document containing content from the defined content document within the defined area within the presentation document.

- 10 4. A computer readable medium having a template stored thereon said template defining a layout for content to occupy, an engine capable of placing content within the defined layout, the template comprising:

a tag defining a container area; and

wherein the engine upon recognizing the tag places a selected content within the defined container area.

- 15 5. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up layout template having a tag, said tag defining a layout area, the method comprising:

defining a textual mark-up document content source; and

flowing the textual mark-up language content source into the area defined by the textual mark-up layout template defined by the tag.

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6. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content document, a textual mark-up customizing document, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

parsing in a tag defining a container area and attributes from the textual mark-up

- 25 customizing document;

instantiating a container component object in response to parsing in the tag defining the container area and attributes;

placing the container area and attributes into the container component object;

flowing the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the container area and attributes placed in the container component object;

- breaking the flow of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the container area and attributes placed in the container component object upon an indication
- 5 that the area defined by the container area and attributes is full; and
- saving the position in the textual mark-up content document where the flow stopped.

7. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method
- 10 comprising:

- parsing in a tag in the customizing document;
- flowing the textual mark-up language elements of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the tag; and
- 15 maintaining a record of where each such textual mark-up language element is contained within the area defined by the tag.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
- flowing a textual mark-up language element into more than one of the areas defined
- 20 in by the series of tags in the textual mark-up customizing document; and
- maintaining a chain of records of the textual mark-up language element flowed into more than one of the areas defined in by the series of tags in the textual mark-up customizing document.

- 25 9. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:
- parsing in a tag in the customizing document;

flowing the textual mark-up language elements of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the tag;

breaking the flow of the textual mark-up language element of the textual mark-up content document upon an indication that the area defined by the tag is full; and

5 saving the position of the flow of the textual mark-up element.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

maintaining a record of the order of the series of tags in the textual mark-up
customizing document; and

10 including in the record for each such tag in the ordered series, the position where each such textual mark-up language elements flow stopped upon the indication that the area defined by the tag is full.

11. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up

15 . content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

flowing the textual mark-up content document into a series of areas defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document; and

20 instantiating for each textual mark-up language element a separate layout flow object
for each area defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document, in which that
textual mark-up language element controls some portion of the view.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising distinguishing amongst multiple

25 separate layout flow objects for a textual mark-up language element based on a distinct context identifier assigned to each area defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document.

13. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents using a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags and a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

5 accessing locally the textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, the tags defining a series of containers for placing a textual mark-up content document; and

 accessing remotely the textual mark-up content document to be flowed into the series of defined containers.

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